



## Fact Sheet:

# Alcohol Use



### Use

- An estimated 5.5 million adults in California are binge drinkers (defined as men who drink 5 or more drinks, or women who drink 4 or more drinks in a row, at least once during the past month).

(Facts and Figures on Alcohol and other Drugs, ADP, 2004)

- Approximately 40% of college students engage in binge drinking.

(2001 estimates based on percentages originally from The Economic Cost of Alcohol and Drug Abuse in the U.S., 1992, National Institute on Drug Abuse & National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.)

- 26% of eleventh graders surveyed in the 9<sup>th</sup> Biennial California Student Survey were binge drinkers (drinking 5 drinks in a row at least once during the past month).

(Ninth Biennial California Student Survey 2001-2002)

- 32% of the eleventh graders surveyed in the 9<sup>th</sup> Biennial California Student Survey used alcohol excessively in 2001-2002. These are driving-age kids, 16 and 17 years old.

(Ibid)

- 62.5% of eleventh graders used alcohol in the previous six months in 2001.

(Ibid)

- Fetal alcohol syndrome, caused by drinking during pregnancy, is the number one cause of preventable mental retardation and birth defects in the United States.

(Facts and Figures on Alcohol and other Drugs, ADP, 2004)

### Cost

- There were 3,596 alcohol-related deaths in California in 2001.

(California Department of Health Services, 2003)

- In 2001, drunk driving was the cause of 1,048 fatal and 16,261 injury traffic accidents in California.

➤ 1,179 people died.

➤ 25,344 people were injured.

(California Highway Patrol, 2002)

- A report by a task force of the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism found that on an average day, four college students die in accidents involving alcohol.

(A Call to Action: Changing the Culture of Drinking at U.S. Colleges, NIAAA, April 2002)

- Alcohol abuse costs the state about \$20.6 billion annually. This estimate takes into consideration loss of productivity, health care costs, prevention and treatment costs, criminal justice costs and losses due to a crime.

(Facts and Figures on Alcohol and other Drugs, ADP, 2004)

- 52,973 people were admitted to treatment primarily for alcohol abuse in 2002/03:

➤ 68.7% were males

➤ 31.3% were females

➤ 60.1% were 31-50 years old

(ADP CADDs data FY 2002/03)

- In most treatment programs the majority of abusers abuse more than one substance.

(Ibid)